

Summary

This thesis deals with the topic of semi-presidential systems. As the title suggests, semi-presidential modes oscillate somewhere on the border between parliamentarism and presidentialism. Considering the fact that even the scholars have no consensus how to define this term, the whole study is conceived as a comparison of the opinions of prominent Czech as well as international constitutional lawyers and political scientists.

Nowadays the necessity to define the semi-presidential model clearly becomes important because there has been a lengthy discussion after implementation of new constitutional phenomenon in the Czech Republic (the direct election of the head of the state) about how it affected the constitutional system of the state. Both the public and many prominent experts have the opinion that it is the direct presidential election that has changed the constitutional system of the Czech Republic from a purely parliamentary model to a semi-presidential model or at least, it significantly leads to it.

The objectives of this study are modest. Since the number of mutually different definitions of this system from the perspective of many constitutional lawyers and political scientists is really large, it was impossible to cover such a broad topic completely, therefore this work is devoted to the most relevant theories.

The first chapter deals primarily with the definition of the parliamentary and presidential systems on whose partial synthesis the semi-presidential system is based.

The second chapter is conceived as a historical excursus, dealing mainly with the origins of definitional efforts of Maurice Duverger and Giovanni Sartori.

The third chapter gives space to the opinions of contemporary political scientists – Cindy Skach, who also tries to think about the semi-presidential system as a possible danger of transition of democracies to authoritarian regimes, and Robert Elgie, who is considered to be one of the greatest scholars in the field of semi-presidentialism and who is also the most responsive in terms of the amount of states that represent this model because of his broad interpretation of the definition.

The fourth chapter refers to the definitional efforts and opinions of Czech scholars, primarily because of the discussion about the direct election of the president mentioned before which is under way in the Czech Republic. Besides the interpretation of Josef Mlejnek, Michal Kubát, Jan Kysela and Miloš Brunclík the section mentions the Israeli electoral reform as seen by Pavlína Šulcová.

The last chapter discusses very briefly views of those political scientist and constitutional lawyers who do not consider the semi-presidential system as an autonomous constitutional model, but see it only as a structure between parliamentary and presidential regimes.

The result of this thesis is a small comparative analysis of different definitions of the semi-presidential system which is focused primarily on its most significant definitional divergences.